

5 WITNESSES IDENTIFY SPAIN FIGURE AS BERIA

By GENE FESON

San Diego Union Staff Writer

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MADRID, Spain, Oct. 18.—The presence in Spain of a

man who claims to be the purged head of the Russian secret police, Lavrent P. Beria, has been established beyond reasonable doubt, high Spanish police officials permitted me to disclose today.

Five witnesses have identified the man as Beria from a study of Beria pictures furnished by Spanish security police.

The Spanish national police are preparing a documented report on the case for Sen. Joseph McCarthy, of the United States, and I have been asked to deliver it to him. For a month I have been working under cover with the Spanish secret police and the intermediary, Fabio Gallo, who claims that Beria has been in Spain. In that time we have established the following facts:

1.—The man called Beria was waiting at the place where I and the intermediary were to rendezvous soon after my arrival in Spain. I carried identification papers from Sen. McCarthy.

2.—That he was accompanied by two other men, one a Spaniard, the other described as a foreigner.

3.—That four persons in addition to the intermediary positively have identified photographs of the real Beria as the man they saw at the rendezvous on the beach between Malaga and Gibraltar.

This government now has ordered that any man accom-



L. P. BERIA
Identified in Spain

panying the person who has been identified as Beria by birth, is to be declared a non-resident of Spain and not stay in Spain.

Carthy could be served on the spot, which guarantee him protection in the United States as witnesses of a secret committee.

Immediately after my arrival in Spain the secret police were under orders to use every facility available to, and publish anything that would endanger the chances of success in establishing contact.

The Spanish national police have kept a tight secret ban on the case, and the newspaper ABC, one of the most respected in Spain, twice has had editions seized by police because of printing information on the investigation.

It is now believed by police that the intermediary, Gallo, in exile from Nicaragua, is withholding information about the whereabouts of the man he called Beria, perhaps for fear of implicating close friends and relatives in Spain. Association with Communists would subject them to the severest penalties.

Even though several attempts to establish contact with this figure have failed, police believe the investigation has paid off because it has definitely established that the man is or was here.

Police consider Spain as the logical hiding place for Beria, if he did escape from Russia, because there are no known Communist agents operating in Spain who might

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EXCLUSIVE STORY

7/27 : CIA-RDP83-00764R000500080008-2

Witnesses in Spain Call Fugitive Beria

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liquidate him before he could trade Russian secrets for a sanctuary.

The rendezvous arranged for contact with the so-called Beria was a beach in front of a large farm located between Malaga and Gibraltar on the Mediterranean coast.

The man carried out specific arrangements which had been made with Gallo, and appeared at the appointed time on the designated beach, walking with two companions. The promise, according to police investigation of the case, was to be surrender to a qualified representative of the United States.

Gallo, however, did not appear at the rendezvous—he was in custody of local Malaga police at the time as a result of refusal to give information to a man claiming to be a representative of the United States.

This agent, when Gallo refused to cooperate with him on the ground he had not properly identified himself, called Malaga police and Gallo was held for questioning.

It was in this manner that the Spanish national police entered the case. When they established the facts, they offered full cooperation and ordered Gallo's release to carry out any new arrangements which could be made.

By that time, however, the man claiming to be Beria had disappeared—either from the country or deep into Spain's interior.

Spanish police conducted an intense search of the Malaga area, and turned up five witnesses who identified photographs of the real Beria as the man they had seen in the region.

Owners of Farm Also Are Certain

Three of these persons were Spanish people of relatively high position who owned the farm at which the rendezvous was to take place. They were on the beach at the time, they told police, and saw three strange men strolling along the edge of the water.

This was an unusual sight, as the farm is located a mile from the highway and in a lonely section of the coast. The three all identified pictures of Beria as one of the three men. One other, they said, was obviously a Spaniard and the other they described as a foreigner.

The arrangements for the beach rendezvous were made as the result of a meeting Gallo said he originally had with the man claiming to be Beria in Gibraltar. At that time Gallo was unable to deliver any assurances from the United States and a second meeting was scheduled.

The final meeting, to deliver the papers from Sen. McCarthy, was never held, as a result of Gallo's arrest.

Beria, who as head of the Russian secret police organized Red espionage through much of the world, was revealed as purged July 9 when Beria was executed.

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Gallo, wealthy Nicaraguan who dabbles in revolution and international politics, turned up in the United States and told The San Diego Union he had been asked to serve as an intermediary for four high Communists who wanted sanctuary in this country.

He asked The San Diego Union to place him in touch with high government officials. Later, in Spain, Gallo notified The San Diego Union and government officials that one of the men was Beria and he wanted guarantees from either President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon or Sen. McCarthy.

The exact source of Gallo's information has never been disclosed, though it is believed to be someone in Spain. Police are inclined to doubt that Beria could have parachuted into Spain, as originally thought possible, and pointed out any one in his official capacity could have had access to any foreign documents or passports needed to cross any border.

CPYRGHT

Official Commentary on Beria Expected From U.S. or Spain

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10 (AP)—There are strong indications the mystery is Pablo Gallo, a member of the United States or Spain soon will issue a statement on the far-fetched cloak-and-dagger story—the supposed escape of Lavrenti P. Beria, deposed Soviet secret police chief.

Informers of officials say the story of Beria's alleged flight is a Communist plot, a gangster-hobby, or—the truth.

International News Service in an investigation reported an accurate picture of events linked to the escape of Beria's reported disappearance from Russia and his rumored presence in Spain.

Leading figures in the chronicle include Vice President Nixon, Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) and operatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The key figure in the grisly one United States official as the San Diego Union has published details of how Gallo originated the Beria escape story.

Gene Fuson, a San Diego Union reporter, sent to Spain to track down Gallo, quoted the Niagaras as telling Spanish police in a final version of his story that he met a man he believed to be Beria in an automobile in Gibraltar last month but that a second contact failed.

It should be recalled that July 9, Premier Malenkov of Russia, announced the exposure of Beria as a "traitor and tool of foreign imperialism."

This was a bombshell. Since Stalin's death, Beria had been regarded as the No. 2 man in the Kremlin. He headed the

TWO SEEKING BERIA CLUES

Rombert James, The San Diego Union's military editor, and Gene Fuson, San Diego investigating Lavrenti Beria's reported escape from Russia.

James, a former Associated Press foreign correspondent, was chief of the AP Moscow bureau in 1945 and 1946. He speaks and reads Russian and saw Beria in person on many occasions during his years in Russia.

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INDIAN OFFICIALS REVIEW NATION'S FLEET

BOMBAY, India, Oct. 10 (Reuters)—President Prasad, accompanied by Prime Minister Nehru, today reviewed the Indian fleet in Bombay Harbor.

The fleet included the battle ship Delhi, six destroyers, three frigates, two survey ships, and seven minesweepers. It was the first review of the fleet since the

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CONCEPTS UNCHANGED

The senator said he saw nothing in the Far East to indicate Soviet leaders have abandoned the strategic concept of Lenin

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STRESS TEST AHEAD

Reinforced police guards, withdrawn overnight from the American and British embassies in Belgrade, reappeared this afternoon

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VERY GOOD REASON

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HOLIDAY FOR ONLY A FEW

Columbus Day is tomorrow, but few places will be closed in its observance.

Banks, hitherto closed on the holiday, will be open, and so will federal offices, stores,

schools, with exception of St. Augustine High School.

However, city, county and state offices and the Public Library will close. Parking

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BERIA CHINA AND U.S.

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"As long as they retain hope, they may yet be our strongest allies in the event of Soviet aggression."

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CPYRGHT

U.S. STATEMENT ON BERIA EXPECTED

(Continued from Page 1)
secret police and as minister of interior was chief of the Soviet Union to break the story which gave Russia the key to the hydrogen bomb.

He headed the spy network which included the late John Fuchs, who contrived to give Russia the secrets which enabled the Reds to smash American mastery of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

International News Service has learned that American authorities — Nixon and Sen. McCarthy — first heard the Beria escape report from The San Diego Union.

3 OTHERS INVOLVED
This is what happened: Gallo informed the San Diego Union that he had learned from a Latin-American Communist he had learned that four big Russians wanted asylum in the United States. One of the Russians was described as Beria. The others presumably were described as henchmen who aided in his "escape."

Gallo reported he was in-formed the fugitives wanted ironclad assurance from "some-one like President Eisenhower or Sen. McCarthy" that they would find refuge in the United States.

The San Diego Union notified Vice President Nixon, who called McCarthy and was informed through Francis Flannigan, chief counsel of the Wisconsin senator's investigating subcommittee. Nixon referred the matter to the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency.

OTHER ASSURANCES
The story developed further. Gallo said he was told by several Soviet secret police agents that "Beria" and three of his aides escaped from Russia by plane and landed secretly at Malaga, Spain.

Gallo flew to Spain, to contact the supposed Beria, and negotiate for his delivery to the United States. The San Diego Union as-signed Fuson to fly to Spain. These developments occurred between mid-August and Sept. 13, when a Senate source in-

Washington leaked a rumor that plates and appearance of the key figure in theigsaw. Gallo returned to Madrid sev-eral days ago and was last seen in the capital.

plans to get "Beria" to the United States.

The American-Spanish inquiry continued, and the facts have been sifted.

HOW OFFICIALS REACTED
High officials in Washington believe Red agents might have planned the Beria story on Gallo for these reasons:

To brand Beria even more deeply within Russia a "tool of foreign imperialists," actively plotting with capitalists and conviving with the West against the Soviets.

To involve such celebrated anti-Communists as McCarthy and Nixon in a hoax.

To follow the traditional Communist strategy of creating confusion among enemies.

Responsible United States officials do not at t e c h im- portance to the statement of Col. Hal Reach, pie-throwing comic.

Ulo Amoss, operator of a pri-vate information network, that Fuson was told in Munich that Beria had escaped. These officials insist Gallo is and television shorts.

Old Time 'Keystone'
Of Films Succumbs
HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 10 (AP) — James Henderson Finlayson, 66, the "villain" in "Keystone Kops" movies of the silent screen era, was found dead in bed yesterday, apparently of a heart attack.

A fixture in Mack Sennett and Hal Roach pie-throwing comic films, Finlayson in later years became a character player. In recent years he had appeared in movie and television shorts.

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